doubtful assets and loss assets is based on objective criteria prescribed by the Reserve Bank of India. Whereever there has been a difference in perception between the bank and its Statutory Auditors on one side and the RBI Inspector on the other regarding the classification of a particular non-performing asset and the adequacy for provisioning with respect to such an asset, it has been mainly because the banks have attempted the classification on the basis of the time limits prescribed by the RBI whereas the RBI Inspectors have identified the cases as quick more mortality cases requiring classification of such assets straightaway as loss assets entailing higher provisions with respect thereto.

(c) Whereever the RBI Inspector during the course of inspection have come to a conclusion different from the conclusion arrived at by the banks and the Statutory Auditors regarding the classification of a non-performing asset, the banks are advised to make suitable provisions in the subsequent year to offset the short provisioning of the previous year.

Fresh Loans to Defaulters

1497. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that big business houses who are in default of making payments of their outstanding loans from the banks are again given fresh loans by the banks;

(b) if so, the details of the defaulters who have again been given loans by the banks, bank-wise (public and private) giving the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is any proposal to amend the Banking Regulations Act to make provisions for disclosure of the names of defaulters and the amount due from them; and

(d) if not, what is the logic behind shielding such information vis-a-vis the defaulters from public exposure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) and (b) In order to alert the banks and Financial Institutions and put them on guard against the defaulters to other lending institutions, RBI has put in place a scheme to collect details about borrowers of banks and FIs with outstanding aggregating Rs. 1 crore and above which are classified as 'Doubtful' or 'Loss' or where suits are filed, as on 31st March and 30th September each year. List of borrowers (with outstandings aggregating Rs. 1 crore and above) against whom suits are filed as on 31st March every year are published. Information of such suit filed accounts as well as confidential information on other doubtful and loss assets of Rs. 1 crore is disseminated to banks and FIs in the form of floppies.

The banks and financial institutions are advised to make use of the aforesaid details while considering, on merits, the requests for fresh or additional limits by the defaulting borrowing units, their preprietors/partners/directors etc. The banks, at times, grant on merits, loans/ additional facilities to defaulting units etc. for revival/rehabilitation. Reserve Bank of India has not issued any instructions prohibiting them to grant fresh/additional limit to the defaulters. Banks and financial institutions are free to take their own credit decisions based on commercial judgement.

Pursuant to the instructions of the Central Vigilance Commission for collection of information on willful defaults of Rs. 25 lakhs and above by RBI and dissemination to the reporting banks and FIs, a scheme has been framed by the RBI under which the banks and financial institutions viz. IDBI, IFCI, and ICICI will be required to submit to RBI the details of the willful defaulters.

(c) No such proposal is under consideration.

(d) Confidentiality of, information governing the banker customer relationship is a widely accepted international practice.

Phasing out of subsidy on Foodgrains

1498. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to phase out subsidy on foodgrains during the current year;

(b) if so, the details of the plan to phase out subsidy alongwith its implications; and

(c) the details of the policy changes effected during the last one year to do away with heavy mounting burden of subsidy?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) There is no such proposal under the consideration of the Government.

(b) In view of (a) above, (b) does not arise.

(c) In order to reduce the widening gap between the procurement and distribution cost and the PDS issue price, and the consequent increase in food subsidy to Rs. 8700 crores in 1998-99 (RE), the Government raised the issue price for APL families under TPDS from 29 January 1999. The budgeted food subsidy for 1999-2000 is now Rs. 8200 crores.

Accounts of PSUs of Bihar

1499. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:
SHRI RAGHAVJI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that CAG in its report pulled up Bihar Government for not keeping accounts of 49 State PSUs as reported in the Indian Express of November 21, 1998 under the caption, "Death stalking unpaid Bihar PSU worker"; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Prime Minister's Discussion with Prof. Amartya Sen

1500. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:
SHRI RAGHAVJI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister had met Noble Laureate Prof. Amartya Sen; if so, the details of the discussions held with him; and

(b) what are the concrete steps Government propose to take in the wake of these discussions?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) and (b) The Prime Minister had met Noble Laureate Prof. Amartya Sen. Prime Minister congratulated him. No formal talks were held with Prof. Amartya Sen.

पंजाब में चावल मिलों के सामने संकट पैदा होना

151. **श्री बलव्रत सिंह रामूवालिया** :

श्री राज मोहिन्दर सिंह :

क्या खाद्य प्रसंस्करण उद्योग मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क)क्या यह सच है कि पंजाब की चावल मिलों के सामने कुछ संकट उत्पन्न हो जाने के कारण उन्हें उत्पादन बंद करने के लिए विवश होना पड़ रहा हैं;

(ख)यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार ने औद्योगिक समस्याओं को दूर करने के लिए हाल ही में कोई कदम उठाए हैं; और

(ग)यदि हां, तो क्या कदम उठाए हैं और चावल मिल एसोसिएशन के अनुसार मिलों के सामने पेश आ रही समस्याओं का ब्यौरा क्या हैं?

खाद्य प्रसंस्करण उद्योग मंत्री (**श्री प्रमोद महाजन**) : (क) से (ग) जी नहीं। लेकिन पंजाब सरकार से एक अनुरोध प्राप्त हुआ हैं कि 15.9.98 से 27.10.98 के दौरान खरीदे गगए धान के लिए चावल की